

Kristin J Hartness

Secondary Progressive MS – diagnosed in 1993

BA in performing Arts Directing and Production from Franklin Pierce College

Assistance Dog user from 2001 April to present

Public speaker on service dogs from 2001 April to current

Executive Director on Canines for Disabled Kids from March 2002 to current

I travel the country to speak about and demonstrate the use and legality of service dogs, helping to raise awareness in the general public. The goal of these presentations is 2 fold: first to help people understand service dogs, why they are used, how they are used and how the American with Disabilities Act allows for them to be in public places other dogs cannot be; second to help those who might wish to use service animals to help overcome their disabilities find facilities who can train animals specifically for them. I generally want to encourage knowledge and discourage fear and miscommunication.

I have spoken at hundreds of schools, Lions clubs, Rotary Clubs, Church groups, synagogues, business meetings, police trainings and more to educate people about service dogs and the rules that surround them.

Current Service Dog - Walker Dog Asha

DOB 9/27/2011

Private Trained

Walker Dog Bronson

DOB 12/8/06

Passed 2-2012

Trained by NEADS: Dogs for Deaf and Disabled Americans of Princeton MA

Walker Dog Laddie

DOB 2-2-1999

Retired 7/14/2008

Passed 4-18-2011

Trained by NEADS; Dogs for Deaf and Disabled Americans of Princeton MA

Some conference spoken at & other appearances, publications, interviews:

- Presenter Hudson Public Library, Hudson, MA, March 2019
- Presenter Abilities Expo LA, Los Angeles, CA, February 2019
- Guest Speaker Becker College, Leicester, MA, February 2019
- Presenter Ohio Hotel & Lodging Associate Conference, November 2018
- Presentations PepsiCo Great Lakes Region, multi cities MI, September & October 2018
- Guest speaker Becker College, Leicester, MA, September 2018

- Speaker Abilities Expo Houston TX, August 2018
- Annual speaker for Tufts Adventures in Veterinary Medicine camps, North Grafton, MA 2018
- Speaker Abilities Expo New York Metro, Edison NJ, May 2018
- Forum Speaker – Disability: Awareness, Access and the Church, St Luke’s Episcopal Church, Worcester MA, April 2018
- Speaker Independent Living Expo, Fredericksburg, VA, April 2018
- Speaker Abilities Expo Los Angeles, CA, February 2018
- Course Guest Speaker Becker College, Leicester Campus, February 2018
- Course Guest Speaker Becker College, Leicester Campus, January 2018
- Speaker Abilities Expo, DC Metro, Chantilly VA, December 2017
- Speaker Abilities Expo, San Mateo CA, October 2017
- Guest of Chamber Exchange, TV Channel 3 Worcester, October 2017
- Course Guest Speaker Becker College, Leicester Campus, September 2017
- Speaker Abilities Expo, Houston TX, August 2017
- Speaker at Fourteenth Annual Conference for Children with 49, XXXXY, August 2017
- Speaker at Worcester Commission on Disability, July 2017
- Guest of “About the Valley” TV program with Harry Berkowitz, Northbridge, MA June 2017
- Annual speaker for Tufts Adventures in Veterinary Medicine camps, North Grafton, MA 2017
- Speaker at the Independent Living Expo, Fredericksburg, VA, May 2017
- Speaker at the Abilities Expo New York Metro, Edison, NJ May 2017
- Panelist at South Carolina AT Expo Columbia, SC March 2017
- Presenter Abilities Expo Boston, MA September 2016
- Speaker SB National Conference Adult Day, Minneapolis, MN, June 2016
- Speaker at Independent Living Expo, Fredericksburg, VA, May 2016
- Speaker at Easter Seal Society, Honolulu, HI, April 2016
- Speaker at Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity, Honolulu, HI, April 2016
- Annual speaker for Tufts Adventures in Veterinary Medicine camps, 2016
- Speaker at Imagine Autism Conference with University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, April 2016
- Abilities Awareness Week White Oaks Elementary School, San Carlos, CA – Key Note Speaker, March 2016
- Guest on Connecting the Dots WCCA TV, Worcester, MA, March 2016
- Speaker Abilities Expo LA, Los Angeles, CA, February 2016
- Speaker at SOIG (Insulin support group) Santa Monica, CA 2015
- Speaker Abilities Expo DC Metro, Chantilly, VA, December 2015
- Published Abilities Buzz “Service Dog? Emotional Support Dog? Companion Animal? Therapy?”, December 2015
- Poster Presenter at Association of University Center on Disabilities Conference, Washington DC, November 2015

- Speaker at Strong on Insulin Group meeting, Santa Monica, CA, November 2015
- Published Abilities Buzz “Assistance Dogs: Private vs. Program Training”, October 2015
- Speaker at Southwest Conference on Disability, Albuquerque, NM, October 2015
- Speaker at the Ehlers-danlos National conference, Baltimore, MD August 2015
- Speaker at Abilities Expo, San Jose, CA 2014
- Speaker at Talk About Curing Autism (TACA), Millbury, MA 2014
- Speaker at Abilities Expo, Boston, MA 2014
- Speaker at The Children’s Museum, Summer Drop-In Days, Easton MA 2014
- Speaker at Abilities Expo, Houston TX 2014
- Published Abilities Buzz “What does your dog do?”, June 2014
- Speaker at Abilities Expo, Chicago IL 2014
- Speaker at Abilities Expo, Atlanta GA 2014
- Guest on “Be Our Guest” for local TV, Upton MA 2014
- Speaker at Abilities Expo, Los Angeles CA 2014
- Guest on “Imperfectly Perfect Radio”, Los Angeles CA <http://www.lataalkradio.com/Imperfect.php> 2014
- Speaker at National Marfan Foundation Conference, Los Angeles CA 2013
- Guest on “Living and Thriving with Rustie” radio show www.blogtalkradio.com 2013
- Speaker at Pediatric Brain Injury Conference, Marlboro MA 2012
- Speaker at Regional Marfan conference, Lebanon NH 2012
- Speaker at Ehlers-Danlos 2011 Learning Conference, Cincinnati OH 2012
- Speaker at Occupational Therapy Conference, Ocean City MD 2011
- Speaker at Ehlers-Danlos 2011 Learning Conference, Baltimore MD 2011
- Speaker at Mid-eastern Symposium on Therapeutic Recreation, Ocean City MD 2011
- Speaker at Assistive Technology Expo, Fargo ND 2011
- Speaker at ADU Trainers conference, Harrisburg PA 2011
- Guest on “PIX 11 Morning News”, New York, NY 2011
- Speaker at Federation for Children with Special Needs: Visions of Community Conference 2010
- Speaker at Assistance Dogs International conference in Toronto, Ontario Canada 2010
- Speaker at Southwest Veterinary Conference in Fort Worth, Texas 2010
- Speaker at Abilities Expo, Atlanta Georgia 2009
- Guest on “Inside Fitchburg” for local TV, Fitchburg MA 2009
- Speaker at Assistance Dogs International trainers conference, Estes Park, Colorado 2009
- Guest on “What Would Jeff Do?” radio show AM790 and podcast, 2009
- Guest of “Animal Ambassador” local TV (LATV) Leominster, MA 2009
- Guest on “Dogs 101” Animal Plant TV show, Golden Retriever episode 2008
- Speaker at Hearing Loss Association of America’s regional conference in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 2007

- Filmed for Today's Family feature on Canines for Disabled Kids full episode shown nationally 2007